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ABSTRACT

It is clear that California is rapidly becoming a State composed primarily of Third World minorities. Each year since 1970, minorities have increased by an average of 14.3 percent of the total population. Even though some minority groups go undetected, a good case can be made by those who wish to argue for a still higher percentage. The State and the Federal government have failed to recognize this emerging phenomena and consequently are, and will be, unprepared to meet the challenge to provide for this type of population realignment. By 1990, the majority of California's population will be minority peoples. Now is the time for responsible public policy-makers to begin implementation of necessary programs to accomodate these groups. (Author/EB)

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Third World Population in California

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Council on Intergroup Relations

Intern Research Project

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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The Intern Research Project on Third World population is an outstanding piece of research, but like most research figures on Third World population, it is, in my judgment, conservative.

Most ethnic leaders believe that the population is anywhere from 38-41%, and I find myself in this category.

Nevertheless, the difference of opinion with the interns should not detract from the outstanding job they did in compiling these figures. Their work is both well-researched and documented. For this, Rupert Francisco, director of the project deserves a great deal of commendation.

I hope that the readers, scholars and researchers will find this material both useful and informative.

This is another example that young people when given authority and responsibility can meet the challenge.

Mervyn M. Dymally

MERVYN M. DYMALLY

THIRD WORLD POPULATION IN CALIFORNIA

The success of a social system is causally related to its ability to adapt to change. A society that does not change with the times is by--definition--stagnant. Over 100 years ago, John Stuart Mill wrote that a society must utilize new ideas to correct past deficiencies because that is the only way a society could progress.* No doubt he would agree, were he alive today, that the need to accurately assess the composition of a society is a superior idea because it is intrinsic to meeting the progressive needs of its citizenry.

Planning is the very essence of policy-making. Lack of or inadequate planning creates an invidious burden on some sectors of a social system while allowing other sectors to profit at the expense of their neighbors. Basic to good planning and responsive public policy-making is accurate information. California, culturally, politically and socially has been unaware of an emerging phenomena in its midst: the growth of its ethnic minorities. There are important implications for the State and Nation as well, in this new phenomena. These implications must be fully explored if we are to plan for, and function progressively in the future. The immediate task is to delineate and explicate the salient characteristics of this occurrence, that can affect--adversely or beneficially--our future. Such is the reason for this effort.

*In his essay "On Liberty", Mill dealt with the notion of new ideas, how they supercede "old ones" and lead to social, political, scientific and cultural progress.

Official demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau are, and always have been, inaccurate. By the Bureau's own admission, their figures are defective in many respects. The reasons range from dysfunctional ethnicity categorizations (on the forms), to inept and mal-trained field personnel. The problem is compounded and made even more ominous because the Bureau's data is utilized for public policy decisions and fiscal allocations both nationally and locally. It goes without saying that some groups, generally minorities, become the victims of the kind of fiscal ill-apportionment which results in deficient governmental response to the pressing socio-economic problems they encounter. California may be the most conspicious example of this failure. Until this attempt, few have ventured to determine with some degree of accuracy, the minority population of the state. Indeed, few have even recognized the fact that in the near future, over half of the State's population may be composed of Third World ethnic minorities. This brief report is an attempt to delineate this evolving phenomena.

In enumerating the significant Third World minority population in the State of California, the report presents the current (1977) population figures for such groups along with a projection of those figures to the year 1990. It concludes that the State's current minority population is approximately 35% of the total population.

In the chart on the following page, the figures in column I are for comparison purposes only. They represent the U.S. Census Bureau's 1970 population count for the groups enumerated. As can be noted, the Census Bureau had no figures available for those groups with the N/A citation.*

The figures in column II represent contemporary estimates from various sources throughout the State. This data was gathered from various individuals and/or organizations representing minority groups. Because they represent input from different groups, these figures lack the bias inherent in the U.S. Census Bureau data: they are a more accurate representation of the minority community. However, while the Census Bureau tends to "undercount", the varying groups tend to "overcount". This consideration should be kept in mind in the process of reviewing this data. There is an additional reason why the data in column II is more accurate; to wit, specific minority groups are enumerated to a greater degree (more specific ethnic categories) than the official Census figures.

*Part of the traditional problem with Census Bureau figures is that members of relatively small minority groups (10,000 and under) go either undetected or are subsumed under the broader categories of White, Black, Spanish or Asian origin. Thus, making it difficult to accurately determine the composition of certain minority groups.

YEAR	COLUMN I 1970	COLUMN II 1977
TOTAL POPULATION	19,953,134	24,001,600
White Population	15,867,077 (1)	15,665,000 (2)
Mexican-American (Origin)	1,857,267	4,239,600 (a)
Black	1,398,498	1,645,000 (b)
Japanese	213,277	350,000 (c)
Chinese	170,000	300,000 (d)
Filipino	135,000	300,000 (e)
American Indian	88,000	239,000 (f)
Portuguese	62,857	350,000 (g)
Puerto Ricans	50,000	350,000 (h)
Cubans	47,560	80,000 (i)
Koreans	16,561	150,000 (j)
India (East Indians)	13,410	30,000 (k)
Guatemalans	12,649	40,000 (l)
Panamanians	5,655	25,000 (m)
Vietnamese	N/A	80,000 (n)
Samoans	N/A	50,000 (o)
Guamanians	N/A	30,000 (p)
Caribbean (all)	15,323	78,000 (q)
TOTAL Minority Group Members	4,086,057	8,336,600
PERCENT of Total Population	20.4%	34.7%

(1) This number is lower than the 1970 U.S. Census Bureau count of 16,343,611. It is probably more accurate because it is the remaining figure after minority group members have been enumerated. It compensates for and decreases the possibility of a light skinned individual being counted as a "White" and as a member of a minority group.

(2) This is an estimate of the decline in the White population. The Census Bureau's 1975 unofficial update of the White population shows a similar figure

As the chart indicates, the minority population of the State increased dramatically from 1970 when minorities comprised 20.4% of the population to 34.7% in 1977. This represents a minority growth rate of 14.3% in proportion to the total population for the 7 year period observed; or an increase of 4,250,543 minorities. The chart also indicates that the White population decreased .01% or 202,077 during the same 7 year period. When the total population is adjusted for the minority increase, the 1977 population becomes 24,001,600. This figure, by far, surpasses known estimates or projections for the current year. The Population Research Unit of The State's Department of Finance, for example, in 1970 projected a 1977 total population of 21,750,000.

CONCLUSION
PART I

Population Without Undocumented Workers

California's population is on the rise. The greatest increase is in the number of Third World ethnic groups, with their numbers increasing at a rate of 14.3% in the past seven years. Presently, 34.7% of the State's total population are members of a minority group. If the present trend continues, and there is no reason to doubt it will not, in 7 years (1985) the State's minority population will increase an additional 14.3% to 49% of the total population. By the 1990 Census, California's minorities will comprise a staggering 60.7% of the total population. That is, of the estimated 31,520,176 Californians in 1990, 19,132,746 will be members of a minority group.

That California's population will eventually be predominated by minorities is clear. Even though the present effort points to a contemporary estimate of 34.7%, there is reason to believe this is a conservative figure. Some place the State's present minority population as high as 41%: Lieutenant Governor Dymally

and Dr. Marcos Ifante, a population researcher, are a few who make such claims.

PART II

Population With Undocumented Workers

There are several proposals being considered, whose purposes are to impart amnesty to "undocumented workers" in the U.S. If any such proposals become law, it will have a significant effect on the nation's "legitimate" population count. The population of the State of California, especially, will increase significantly because of the large numbers of "undocumented workers" now in the State. Estimates of the numbers of these individuals in the State are varied, with the Department of Immigration and Naturalization Service estimate going as high as 2.5 million. If a conservative figure for undocumented workers, such as 1.2 million, is added to the present California population, the minority population of the State increases from 34.7% to 37.8%. As the figures below indicate, the addition of 1.2 million undocumented workers to the "legitimate" population increases the 1977 California population from 24,001,600 to 25,201,600. Of the latter figure, 9,536,600 or 37.8% would be members of a minority group. Using these figures, and assuming all growth trends for minorities and Whites continue, by 1990, 34,948,740 persons will inhabit the State. Of these, 22,297,296 or 63.8% of the population will be members of Third World minority groups.

Population With Undocumented Workers

YEAR	1977	1990
Total Minority Population	8,336,600	
Number of "undocumented workers" (Mexican)	1,200,000	
Total Minority Population	9,536,600	
Total California Population: White	15,665,000	
Total California Minority Population	9,536,600	
Total Population (with "undocumented workers")	25,201,600	

	1977	1990
TOTAL POPULATION	25,201,600	34,948,740
Minority Population	9,536,600	22,297,296
Percent Minority Population	37.8%	63.8%

It is clear that California is rapidly becoming a state composed primarily of Third World minorities. Each year since 1970, minorities have increased by an average of 14.3 percent of the total population. Even though some minority groups go undetected by this report,* the contemporary minority population is still relatively high and a good case can be made by those who wish to argue for a still higher percentage. The State and the Federal government have failed to recognize this emerging phenomena and consequently is, and will be, unprepared to meet the challenge it will take to provide for this type of population realignment. By 1990, the majority of the state will be composed of minority peoples. Now is the time for this phenomena to be understood and for responsible public policy-makers to begin implementation of necessary programs to accommodate these groups.

*Several groups: Salvadorians, Middle Easterners, Black Africans and Guyanese, for example, are not accounted for because of their small but significant numbers and because of the difficulty of gathering primary data in absence of any Census Bureau figures.

APPENDIX OF SOURCES FOR 1977 MINORITY POPULATION ESTIMATES

a) Marcos Ifante, Ph.D.; Dr. Ifante obtained his figures by updating the 1972 figure that was recognized as true and accurate in Federal District Court, San Francisco (Case No. C-71-22-85). In United Raza vs. George H. Brown, Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, it was established that the Mexican-American community comprised--in 1972--18.7% of the State's population, not 14.2% as the U.S. Census Bureau claimed. The 18.7% was calculated by a special task force that surveyed homes in the same areas as the Census Bureau, compared results with the Census figures, then cross checked different districts to determine ratios. According to Dr. Ifante, the contemporary estimate cited has been confirmed, independently, by an April, 1977 Gallup Poll.

b) California State Department of Finance, Population Research Unit projection for 1977. This figure can be considered a conservative estimate.

c) Shigeo Yoshitsugu, Japanese Editor, Hokubei Maninichi, a newspaper in the Japanese Community, San Francisco.

d) Soone Y. Lee, President, Sacramento Chinese Benevolent Association.

e) Ben Canlas, Commercial Atache, Filipino Consulate, Los Angeles.

f) Ben Lucero, Palomar College, San Marcos; State Chairman of the California Indian Education Association and President of California Community Colleges Extended Opportunity Programs and Service Directors Association. Mr. Lucero has done extensive work in enumerating the California American Indian population.

g) Press release from the office of State Assemblyman John Vasconcellos, May 18, 1977.

h) Jorge Pineiro, Puerto Rican Western Region Council.

i) Sam Nogueira, Santa Clara Department of Social Services, Cuban refugee intake program.

j) Lee Kwon, Los Angeles Korean Community Council.

k) Rameshwar Singh, Ph.D., California State University, San Jose.

l) John Ulmen, Delegate of Tourism, Guatemalan Consulate, Los Angeles.

m) Nick Nell, Panama Government Tourist Bureau, Los Angeles.

n) Civil Rights Digest, Fall 1976, page 60. This estimate is probably low since it was originally made in 1976.

o) Civil Rights Digest, Fall 1976, page 42.

p) Civil Rights Digest, Fall 1976, page 42.

q) This estimate includes individuals from the following nations: Jamaica, British West Indies, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago and West Indies.